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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/595,043	06/15/2000	Mark Dehdashtian	VAS-5512	9147

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IRVINE, CA 92614

EXAMINER

BARRETT, THOMAS C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3738

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/595,043

Applicant(s)

DEHDASHTIAN ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas C. Barrett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,13,14,18-20 and 22-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-12,15-17 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 3, 13-14 and 18-20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 5.

Applicant's election with traverse of claims 3, 13-14 and 18-20 in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that a full and complete search of the prior art would not place an undue burden on the Examiner. This is not found persuasive because the MPEP 808.01(a) states "Since the claims are directed to independent inventions, restriction is proper pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121, and it is not necessary to show a separate status in the art or separate classification." In other words, a lack of undue burden on the examiner is not required for a species restriction. However, as noted in Paper No. 4, "Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are **not** patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case." The Applicant has so far failed to show the species as being obvious variants of each other.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Furthermore, the Examiner withdraws newly submitted claims 22-34 because they do not read on the elected species. Claims 23-25 and 27-34 are directed to a patch and a method for its use. Claims 23-25 and 27 are dependent on claims directed to

methods of repairing an in situ graft, which the Applicant had already withdrawn. In addition, the specification discloses that the graft (38) of figure 14 (Species VII) is for use within failing or leaking grafts, not the graft of Species V.

Regarding claims 22 and 26, the graft of Species V only has one smaller leg portion, not the two smaller leg portions claimed.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Australia on September 23, 1999. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the PQ3029 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Oath/Declaration

The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02. The oath or declaration is defective because: The clause regarding "willful false statements..." required by 37 CFR 1.68 has been omitted.

Claim Objections

Claims 15-17 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

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Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

The MPEP 608.01(n) states "The test as to whether a claim is a proper dependent claim is that it shall include every limitation of the claim from which it depends, or in other words that it shall not conceivably be infringed by anything which would not also infringe the basic claim."

Claims 15-17 claim only the intraluminal graft of Claim 5, and do not include every limitation of Claim 5, and are therefore improperly dependent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 4-12 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 4, 6, 11 and 12 recite the limitation "said graft". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in these claims.

Claims 4, 5, and 9-10 recite the limitation "said intraluminal graft". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in these claims.

In addition, claims 15-17 recite the limitation "The intraluminal graft". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in these claims.

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Claims 9 and 10 recite the limitation "when it is distended". It is unclear if "it" is referring to the intraluminal graft or the vessel.

Claim 16 contains the trademark/trade name "Dacron". Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or trade name. In the present case, the trademark/trade name is used to identify/describe a type of mesh and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite. See MPEP 2173.05(u).

Specification

The use of the trademark DACRON has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 4-12, 15-17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by White et al. (WO 95/08966). White et al. discloses two intraluminal grafts, the second or supplemental graft positioned within and along the length of the first prosthesis (p 6, line 31- p7, line 10). The grafts can be delivered with a balloon catheter. The catheter is advanced so that the proximal end of the catheter is beyond the proximal end of the aneurysm. When the balloon is expanded, the balloon urges a plurality of separate spaced apart wires on the graft into contact with the wall of a vessel (p. 10, lines 16-34). The intraluminal graft is made of a biocompatible material such as Dacron or PTFE (p. 4, lines 19-20).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas C. Barrett whose telephone number is (703) 308-8295. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday-Friday between 9:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

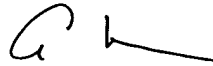
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (703) 308-2111. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3580 for regular communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0850.



Thomas Barrett
November 18, 2002



CORRINE McDERMOTT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700